

Youth Protection Policies in Digital Communication

With the recent suspension of Scouting Activities, there is a strong emphasis on the use of electronic and virtual technology for our units and committees. As a reminder to everyone Youth Protection Guidelines still are applicable to electronic communications. This means that any email, text, social media messaging and video conference must be done so no one on one contact is had between a youth and adult. You must include another adult, preferably a parent/guardian or another unit leader, for all communications.

Guide To Safe Scouting:

- One-on-one contact between adult leaders and youth members is prohibited both inside and outside of Scouting.
- In situations requiring a personal conference, the meeting is to be conducted with the knowledge and in view of other adults and/or youth.
- Private online communications (texting, phone calls, chat, IM, etc.) must include another registered leader or parent.
- Communication by way of social media (Facebook, Snapchat, etc.) must include another registered leader or parent.

As we work together to keep on Scouting while dealing with the new normal of social distancing, it's important to remember some things will remain constant even as we use new tools and techniques.

Remember the foundations of virtual Scouting:

- BSA Youth Protection policies and procedures
- Guide to Safe Scouting
- BSA Social Media Guidelines
- **Cyber Chip**

Links to these and other valuable resources can all be found in one place:

<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>